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In this month's newsletter, I'll discuss some of the major headlines that influenced markets in January. I will also provide insight into what these developments could mean for you as an investor.

January 2019 is behind us—and what a difference a month makes. By the end of 2018, the S&P 500, Dow, and NASDAQ posted their largest annual declines in years. In fact, the S&P 500 and Dow experienced their worst December results since 1931.ⁱ

Fast forward a month, and momentum has swung in the opposite direction. The S&P 500 added 7.9%, and the Dow was up 7.2%. These gains mean both indices had their best January performances in at least 30 years.ⁱⁱ The NASDAQ increased 9.2% last month, which was its best January since 2001.ⁱⁱⁱ

These gains occurred despite the longest government shutdown in history continuing for much of the month.^{iv}

Why did markets rebound in January?

A few details helped change investor sentiment, including Federal Reserve comments and corporate earnings season.

In December, concerns about how quickly the Fed was raising interest rates contributed to market declines.^v By January, however, Fed officials indicated several times that the central bank would begin taking a more dovish view.^{vi} The Fed also chose not to raise rates after its most recent session, saying it “will be patient” when deciding

on future increases.^{vii} Market confidence grew, knowing that the Fed isn't rushing to hike rates again soon.^{viii}

Corporate earnings season also largely affected stock performance. By January's end, about half of the S&P 500 had released their 4th-quarter results.^{ix} The data reinforced that corporate growth had slowed later in 2018, offering no new surprise.^x

Instead of driving market losses, however, January's earnings' releases contributed to market growth. Why? This happened in part because a few solid reports from large companies helped ease investors' worries about a potential recession.^{xi}

In February, the remainder of corporate earnings season is ahead. Both global growth and the ongoing trade discussions between the U.S. and China may also remain on investors' minds.^{xii} Further, we should receive some delayed data, which was postponed by the government shutdown—including the 1st reading of 4th-quarter Gross Domestic Product growth.^{xiii}

In the weeks to come, we will be monitoring these and other details, and we look forward to sharing new perspectives with you as they arise.

Please remember that nothing we talk about here is a recommendation. If you would like to discuss your personal financial situation, please give us a call at (702) 734-7000. We'd be happy to talk to you.

All indices listed are unmanaged indices which cannot be invested into directly. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is comprised of 30 stocks that are major factors in their industries and widely held by individuals and institutional investors.

The NASDAQ Composite Index measures all NASDAQ domestic and non-U.S. based common stocks listed on The NASDAQ Stock Market. The market value, the last sale price multiplied by total shares outstanding, is calculated throughout the trading day, and is related to the total value of the Index.

The economic forecasts set forth in this material may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful.

Warm Regards,

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*Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors in 2018*****
*Forbes Top 200 Women Advisors in 2017, 2018****
*Forbes Top 200 Wealth Advisors in 2016****
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*Registered Rep's Top 100 Independent Advisors, August 2008, 2009 & 2010***

**Rankings based on matrices including assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, regulatory record, quality of practice and philanthropic work.*

***Rankings based on assets under management.*

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ⁱ <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/12/31/stock-market-wall-street-stocks-eye-us-china-trade-talks.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/stocks-today-sp-500-posts-best-january-since-1987/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-last-time-the-sp-500-had-this-strong-a-january-surge-fatal-attraction-was-in-theaters-2019-01-31>

^{iv} <https://www.npr.org/2019/01/25/688414503/watch-live-trump-addresses-shutdown-from-white-house-rose-garden>

^v <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2019/01/31/delivers-biggest-monthly-gain-since/BKTzYZj4uz4D2ApeKaLhWM/story.html>

^{vi} <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/stock-futures-edge-lower-ahead-of-inflation-data-2019-01-11>

^{vii} <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20190130a.htm>

^{viii} <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2019/01/31/delivers-biggest-monthly-gain-since/BKTzYZj4uz4D2ApeKaLhWM/story.html>

^{ix} <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/stock-market-news-january-31-2019-133557697.html>

^x <https://www.nasdaq.com/article/key-takeaways-from-q4-earnings-results-thus-far-cm1084343>

^{xi} <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/stocks-today-sp-500-posts-best-january-since-1987/>

^{xii} <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2019/01/31/delivers-biggest-monthly-gain-since/BKTzYZj4uz4D2ApeKaLhWM/story.html>

^{xiii} <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2019-shutdown-data-delay/>